

8. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;
drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;
information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;
switch means for switching a one-way connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means; and
outputting means, connected to said information converting means, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

12. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;
a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium;
a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver and digital information read by said drive device into at least one of visible and audible data;
a switch switching a one-way connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter; and
an output device, connected to said converter, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

16. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
a communication path providing digital data;
a storage medium storing digital data;
a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;
a switch having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

20. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data;

a switch having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

21. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data; and

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium,

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, visibly and audibly outputs the at least one of visible and audible data.

22. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

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third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

outputting means, connected to the converter, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;

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switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means;

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 16, and 20-23 are independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9-11, 13-15, and 17-19 are dependent claims.

Claims 1-7 have been allowed. Claims 8-23 have been rejected. Amendments to claims 8, 12, 16, and 20-23 are presented herein. The title has been amended in response to